

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 OTTAWA 10435 152035Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
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INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 10435

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PINR, US, CA, UR
SUBJECT: SHCHARANSKY CASE: CANADIAN DEMARCHE

REF: MOSCOW 17967

1. FOLLOWING EXCHANGE TOOK PLACE DEC. 12 IN HOUSE OF
COMMONS DURING DAILY QUESTION PERIOD:

"HON. HERB GRAY (WINDSOR WEST): MR. SPEAKER, I HAVE A
QUESTION FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.
WILL HE CONFIRM THAT, AS REPORTED IN THE PRESS DURING
THE WEEKEND, THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE ASKING PRESIDENT
BREZHNEV OF THE SOVIET UNION IN AN URGENT WAY TO ALLOW
ANATOLY SHCHARANSKY TO LEAVE THAT COUNTRY TO BE
REUNITED WITH HIS RELATIVES IN CANADA, AND IF
MR. SHCHARANSKY IS THEN ALLOWED TO LEAVE, THAT THE
GOVERNMENT WILL EXPEDITE HIS ADMISSION TO CANADA BY
ORDER IN COUNCIL, IF NECESSARY? I AM CONFIDENT THAT
THESE STEPS, IF PROMPTLY UNDERTAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT,
WILL BE SUPPORTED BY CANADIANS GENERALLY AS BEING
CONSISTENT WITH THE CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THIS
COUNTRY AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, ESPECIALLY AS CON-
FIRMED BY THE HELSINKI AGREEMENT"

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PAGE 02 OTTAWA 10435 152035Z

"HON. DONALD C. JAMIESON (SECRETARY OF STATE FOR
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS): MR. SPEAKER, I CALLED IN THE SOVIET
AMBASSADOR AT 1.15 P.M. THIS AFTERNOON AND I MADE
REPRESENTATIONS TO HIM WHICH REFLECTED THE DECLARATION
OF VARIOUS MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT ON ALL SIDES. I THINK
THERE WERE SOME 57 OR 58 MEMBERS INVOLVED, BUT I AM

SURE THEY REFLECTED THE VIEWS OF THE HOUSE. I ALSO ASSURED THE AMBASSADOR THAT THERE WERE RELATIVES IN CANADA WHO WERE PREPARED TO SPONSOR MR. SHCHARANSKY AND THAT WHILE, AS THE DECLARATION OF THE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT SAID, WE DID NOT WISH TO INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE SOVIET UNION, I WANTED HIS GOVERNMENT TO BE AWARE OF THE FACT THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA WOULD ISSUE AN ORDER IN COUNCIL EXPEDITING THE ENTRY OF MR. SHCHARANSKY INTO CANADA IF THAT WERE DEEMED BY THE SOVIET UNION TO BE AN APPROPRIATE COURSE OF ACTION."

2. COMMENT: AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (EXTAFF) OFFICIALS ARE FORCED TO FOLLOW TWO-TRACK APPROACH TO HUMAN RIGHTS CASES SUCH AS SHCHARANSKY MATTER. BUREAUCRATIC PREFERENCE, ARTICULATED PUBLICLY BY PM TRUDEAU, IS FOR PERSISTENT, QUIET DIPLOMACY ROUTE. OFFICIALDOM CANNOT, HOWEVER, IGNORE CONTINUING PUBLIC PRESSURES OF EMIGRE GROUPS HERE AND PARLIAMENTARY EXCHANGES ON THIS SUBJECT ARE PERIODIC OCCURRENCES. EXTAFF MIN. JAMIESON'S STYLE IN PUBLIC, MOREOVER, IS TO BE FORTHCOMING RATHER THAN EVASIVE SOMETIMES CAUSING SHUDDERS AMONG EXTAFF OFFICIALS. ENDERS

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